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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2013

No dressing up

Halloween cancelled
Page 2

Rally for Port man

Support shown for Paul Ruzyski
Page 5

Bank cashes in

1,112 kg for Port Cares food bank
Page 12

Born to ride

Wesley Pierce honoured
Page 19

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■ FIRE SAFETY

Alarm sounds for safety

SARAH FERGUSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Chad Chevalier brings his children to the Port Colborne Fire Department each year to remind them of the dangers of fire.

Fire is very serious and it's important to know about it so it can be prevented, he said.

Sunday was the kickoff to Fire Prevention Week, which runs until Saturday and this year's theme is preventing

kitchen fires.

Chevalier was one of many parents who brought their children to the main fire hall on Killbally St. W.

The event featured free hot-dogs, drinks, face-painting, prizes and an inflatable fire safety house.

Chevalier said he appreciated the fire department hosting the Ontario Provincial Police roll-over simulator again this year.

SEE FIRE | Page 2



Five-year-old Raina Willson learns how to use a firefighter hose with the help of firefighter Ian Roberts.

SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo

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■ **SCHOOLS:** Students told to leave costumes at home; black and orange clothing allowed

Halloween cancelled

SARAH FERGUSON
Inport News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — There won't be any children masquerading as ghouls, goblins, princesses or super heroes at McKay Public School on Halloween.

When her daughter came home with a note attached to the monthly school calendar last week, April Smith was shocked to read what it said.

Instead of dressing in costumes at the Port Colborne elementary school, students are asked to wear orange and black clothing in favour of "a more inclusive Spirit Day."

The news came as a surprise to a number of parents in the school community, especially Smith, because costumes have been allowed for years.

"It's frustrating because the Halloween dances for Grade 7 and 8 is cancelled, too," she said.

"My daughter was looking forward to it. She is finally of age and it's sad because the school said nope, sorry, they aren't having it."

Smith said the tradition of donning a costume and celebrating at school with a parade, and class parties is an important part of childhood. It's a tradition that brings a smile to the adults who see the parade and it's something Smith would like to see continue.

Smith is organizing a costume parade outside the school on Halloween. She is hoping other parents will agree to pull their children out of school early in the afternoon for the event.

"We're going to do it right

in front of the school, right where they're supposed to be. I'm hoping for more than half of the school. Let's give our kids back their memories."

It's a similar black-and-orange affair for students in Grade 4 and up at Canadian Martyrs School in St. Catharines, where only students up to Grade 3 will be allowed to wear costumes in the afternoon.

A smattering of schools covering both major Niagara public school boards have variations of a "Spirit Day" when students are asked to wear orange and black, but not costumes on Halloween.

But that option surely saddens many children, and is angering parents.

Smith isn't the only parent who is upset. Brittany Beney, who is also helping to organize the costume parade for McKay school in Port Colborne, said her stepson is upset about not being allowed to wear a costume this year.

"He was excited to be able to show off his costume to his friends. It's ridiculous."

Beney said she'll likely send her stepson to school in full costume anyway.

"It's a public school. Children should be allowed to have their celebrations."

More than 25 parents have agreed to take their children out of school early on Halloween to participate in the costume parade and support continues to grow, Beney said.

Staff at McKay Public School told a reporter to direct all questions to District School Board of Niagara.

DSBN spokesperson Brett

Sweeney said all schools are welcome to celebrate Halloween, however, it is up to the discretion of the principal of each school to decide whether or not to allow students to wear costumes.

McKay principal Rhonda Grenier was not available

to comment on the decision to prohibit costumes on Halloween before press time.

Sweeney said having a Spirit Day "is not a unique event." However, all other public schools in Port Colborne will allow their students to wear costumes this

year.

Halloween, Sweeney said, is not cancelled at the school. McKay's 420 students will still participate in Halloween-themed educational activities including mask making, reading stories, and measuring the circumference of a

pumpkin.

"It will still be a fun, educational experience for students. The only difference is costumes will be orange and black."

— with files from QMI Agency
Niagara
sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: s.ferguson25



■ FIRE

Event also showed the importance of seatbelt safety

FROM PAGE 1

"This event is also great because it teaches kids about seatbelts, and what happens when you don't wear them," Chevalier said.

Fire service public liaison officer Bill Teal said between 200 to 300 children enjoyed the fire prevention activities. He said the event is successful each year in promoting fire safety and awareness to

families in Port Colborne.

"It's important that people take caution, especially when in the kitchen. Within the last few months, there have been a number of kitchen-related fires, and they're the No. 1 cause of fires."

Welland firefighter Chad Kizlyk agreed kitchen-related fires are the most common causes of fire.

"Typically, this time of the year is the busiest for fires caused in the kitchen," Kizlyk said.

"Everyone is starting up their furnaces and people are inside more."

The Welland Fire and Emergency Services will host a fire prevention awareness event at Seaway Mall on Friday, from 10 a.m. to

9 p.m.

The event will include a fire safety trailer, colouring station, video centre and reading centre.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca
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ourview

Did regional council bail on Ontario Summer Games?

Most Niagara taxpayers are not interested in politicians gambling with their money. But are we afraid of taking any risk, however minor the stakes?

The question comes to mind in light of regional council's decision not to have an uncapped limit on covering potential losses if Niagara had been selected as the host municipality for the 2014 Ontario Summer Games.

Grander athletic events of this type, such as the Olympics, have gained a well-earned reputation as financial black holes. It remains to be seen how the 2015 Pan Am Games, based in and around Toronto, fares financially, but it's doubtful fan interest will match the manufactured hype. Still, one could argue the Pan Am Games draws attention to the value of physical fitness, and leaves in its wake some useful athletic infrastructure.

Whether these benefits are worth the cost will no doubt be in the eye of the beholder.

By comparison, the Ontario Summer Games are small potatoes. They're more about participation and the celebration of sports than they are a top-flight athletic competition.

As such, the cost of staging them is smaller, as is the economic impact on the host municipality.

However, Niagara Sports Commission, which sought Niagara Region's support to bring the Summer Games here, claims the economic spinoff would be in the neighbourhood of \$6.1 million. Upwards of 6,500 visitors and athletes would visit Niagara during the event, it added.

But for the bid to move forward, the aforementioned guarantee to underwrite any losses had to be made. Council, on the advice of staff, would only commit to covering a maximum \$30,000 deficit.

On the surface, this is comforting. After all, we're familiar with enough Olympic Games horror stories to last a lifetime.

see EDITORIAL | page 4

■ COLUMN

Thanksgiving all the time

REV. GORD ABRAHAM
Port Colborne Baptist Church

Like many special days, Thanksgiving is celebrated once a year. I tell others that if you only give some time and a gift to your Mom once a year that's fine but the intent of the day is to remind yourself that it is to be a regular habit to let her know how much you love her and appreciate all she has done for you over your lifetime. So it is with Thanksgiving. It's about a day to give thanks and to remind us to practice gratitude everyday.

We too easily neglect to give thanks to God and others. We complain, grumble, and gripe! Instead of a stream of words that show gratitude we have thoughts of what we didn't get or what we have to face.

Do you ever listen to yourself and others complaining about people, politicians, bosses, co-workers, spouses, children, neighbours? I have come to the personal realization that I am much more likely to complain than I am to be thankful.

In the New Testament Gospels we find a story of Jesus being approached by 10 lepers. Leprosy was a common disease during the time when Jesus walked on this earth and is still found in some countries today. It's cause is bacterial infection that destroys the skin and the nerves of the hands and feet with accompanying problems in the eyes and nose.

In the time of Jesus, leprosy was used for any skin disease and resulted in isolation and separation of the leper from society and family. It created alienation and fear and those with leprosy had to live in colonies of despairs, crying out "unclean" if approached by anyone not committed to them.

10 desperate lepers approached Jesus and took the chance that this Rabbi, who was known to have healing powers, would at least, from a distance, hear and help them. We read, in the Gospel of Luke, "ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.' When he saw them, he said, 'Go, show yourselves to

the priests.' And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?'

After being healed by Jesus only one returned and gave a sincere thanks to Him. How many of us are like the other nine. We receive good things from the hand of God and from others only to gripe and complain. We live in a country of opportunity and wealth (in contrast to many in other countries around our world). We are healthy and have a "roof over our heads," some food on our table and yet we still complain that there is not enough or it is not good enough.

Here are some suggestions to change this ingratitude. Read a Bible and begin to read the Gospel of Luke.

Get about Jesus and how he loves us and cares for us. Read some of the Psalms of David and see how the

writers kept gratitude at the front of their minds and attitudes, even at the worst of times. The next thing to do is regularly repeat, in conversation with God, all the things you are thankful for: your family, health, friends, and specific events of your day.

Finally, express your gratefulness and appreciation to people for who they are and what they have done. You will change their life and encourage them in a world where much of the time it is only putting people down.

Words, actions and an attitude of gratitude are contagious. People will respond far more positively even under the most difficult of circumstances when we are grateful.

Keep Jesus' question in your mind to check your complaints at the door and keep on being grateful. "Where are the nine?" Ask yourself, "What has God done for me?" What people are there who have been kind and generous to me, and how can I express my thankfulness to them?"

■ COLUMN

Beck ruled the neighbourhood ... today the world.

I ran into Kelly Beck the other day and the fondest of memories came flooding back. The kid is alright.

A few years after I moved here to Sunset Bay in Wellfleet, Kelly Beck was seven years old with long, blond hair and shy, hazel eyes. This kid could sell exercise bikes to dead people.

Kelly was the neighbourhood salesperson. While other children, all clad up with 10-gallon hats and cap guns were playing cowboys and native persons, Kelly was going door-to-door along Sunset Bay sending her prospective customers scurrying for



WILLIAM THOMAS

HUMOUR

crawl spaces with handiuls of Extra-Strength Tylenol.

It's not so much what she was selling, because quite often Kelly's wasn't really sure. In fact, for a while Kelly had an older girl working with her door-to-door.

This was before Kelly could talk. When Kelly was old enough to talk she told me the older girl's name was District Sales Manager and she had had her fired.

Kelly affectionately referred to her house as The Home Office, her brothers and sisters as Account Executives and the yellow school bus as the Company Car. Kelly was so smooth she didn't even bring the product around with her anymore. She carried an order form headed "Ja Want Sum?" and a pen. That was it.

see THOMAS | page 4

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TALKING DEALS



■ EDITORIAL

■ THOMAS

Games haven't
lost money
in recent past

FROM PAGE 3

But, as noted, the Ontario event isn't a major extravaganza. Indeed, Bram Cotton of Niagara Sports Commission asserts that the Summer Games haven't lost money the past five times they were held. If this is true — and past financial performance should have been part of any due diligence — he said about Niagara's confidence in hosting a provincial event with the same level of competence as other Ontario municipalities?

Not much. Regional council didn't risk money on the bid, but it also demonstrated a lack of faith in Niagara citizens' ability to compete managerially with others in the province.

—Sun Media

I was Kelly's best customer

FROM PAGE 3

A great sales person as Kelly used to say, doesn't need product. "Hell the Thizzle, not the thesteak!"

I know I was her best customer. Even if I had been her only customer, Kelly Beck would have made more in commissions back then than the guy with exclusive sales rights to cell phones in Mississauga.

Kelly's key to success was not the product, but the pitch. Her weak, almost inaudible knock at the door said: "I'm embarrassed to be here and I'm sorry to bother you, but two slathering rottweilers and a halibut arm are going to move me away from this door so get out here, I don't have all day."

Once the door was opened, you were done. Kelly would shift from one foot to the other, lock those pretty please eyes on you, thrusts

the pen and paper toward you and without mentioning what she was selling she would say, "Ja want sum?"

The cloth for all intents and purposes, had been cut. The choice was clear: sign or be guilty of cruelty to second graders working their way through Wainfleet South Elementary School.

It was easier to say "no" to Revenue Canada than to Kelly Beck, the Mary Kay of Sunset Bay. You sign.

I had jars full of Girl Guide cookies, a fridge full of cheese, enough tickets of chance to warrant a gaming licence and so many magnetic note pads on my fridge, my lawnmower kept trying to get into the house.

I sponsored Kelly Beck in so many Walk-A-Thons, Swim-A-Thons, Bowl-A-Thons, Bike-A-Thons, Stand-A-Thons, Sleep-Over-A-Thons and Whistle-While-You-Work-A-Thons that she

should have legally had her name changed to "The Bionic Beck."

My tab for Kelly's one Walk-A-Thon was \$250.00. The next time she made a sales call on me, I called her on it. She admitted she had applied the "exertion times ten" option but insisted it was a very worthwhile cause.

This out of the way, Kelly did the sales shuffle, locked in the eyes, pushed the pen and paper at me and said:

"Ja want sum?" I signed. But being a bit apprehensive I was forced to ask: "What did I just buy?"

"Macramé," she said with the smile of success and batting eyes to boot. Great. An Afghan or a wall hanging. Either way, I would give it to my Mom for Christmas.

When UPS delivered the microwave with three-stage memory and automatic thaw, I was steamed. I phoned Kelly immediately.

I got her answering machine. Apparently she was speaking to an Airway Sales Motivation Seminar in Toronto, but she was calling in for her messages.

When Kelly did show up at my door the next day, I was still livid. I hit into her ... but then she handed me Madame Benoit's two-volume "Nine Course Meals in Under Nine Seconds."

"It's free ... with the macramé," she said.

Then she started to shift her feet. Gawd, not the sales shift. Then the eyes, then the pen, the paper. "Ja want sum?"

"Okay," I said signing, "but this better not be a household appliance or a Walk-A-Thon along the Great Wall of China."

"It's not," she replied. "It's a blazer. Looked like I got off easy that time. She was two doors down when it dawned

on me.

"How do you know the right size?" I yelled.

"It's a 4x4 Chevrolet Blazer ... fully loaded with crutch control," she yelled back, while knocking on Tryflak's door. I watched John and Diane jump out of their bedroom window and begin running down the beach toward Morgan's Point.

I knew this kid had to be stopped, but I couldn't help but wonder if 'fully loaded' included a cassette player with automatic rewind or what?

And guess what 32-year-old Kelly Beck does today? She works for a leading-edge pharmaceutical company in London, Ontario in sales and ... and her new territory is ... wait for it ... India. Today, India, tomorrow the planet. The kid is a liar.

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Supporters demand Port man's freedom

Showing their support for Paul Ruzycski, 150 people gathered at Lock 8 Park Saturday in Port Colborne for a rally.



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RALLY

'The family is trying to stay strong and fight for Paul'

FROM PAGE 5

The rally was part of a worldwide event asking Russia to release 28 Greenpeace activists, a videographer and photographer known as the Arctic 30.

During the 30-minute rally, Stirling announced the Netherlands has appealed to Russia to release the members aboard the Dutch ship. "It's been 19 days and there has been no communication and we have no ability to talk to him," Stirling said.

"Right now, the family is trying to stay strong and fight for Paul."

Those who attended the rally signed a large card which will be at Ruzicki's home upon his arrival. Children were also asked to sign peace doves, which will hang in Ruzicki's front yard.

Ruzicki, a Port Colborne native, has been a member of Greenpeace for 25 years. He is chief mate on the *Arctic Sunrise*.

"This is the first time an action has taken such a dramatic turn. It's unheard of in the history of Greenpeace."

Stirling said it was typical for Greenpeace activists to be detained, "and told to go away," not being held in prison and charged.

"Paul was fighting for us, and for our Earth. It's our turn to stand for him."

Welland MP Malcolm Allen attended the rally because he felt it was important to support Ruzicki and his family.

"Paul is a Port Colborne native and his family is here. He may not live here, but he is still a constituent of mine," Allen said. "We want to bring him home."

Allen said the Dutch government is "doing the right thing" by demanding the Russian government return the vessel and release the activists.

"The vessel is registered in Holland. This is their vessel and it was boarded in international waters and it should be returned to them."

The New Democrat MP is working closely with the Ruzicki family to provide them with updates he receives from the minister of foreign affairs.




SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo
Patti Stirling, with her family, held a protest in Lock 8 Park Saturday in support of Paul Ruzicki.



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■ **COMMUNITY HEALTH WEEK:** Bridges spans health-care gaps in Port Colborne and Fort Erie

Catching the vulnerable population

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Zeke was a long haul truck driver before moving to Port Colborne several years ago.

While living in the city, he ended up on Ontario Works, which helps people who are

in temporary financial need. I was told to get on ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program), I had to get medically certified. I didn't have a doctor here and was sent to Bridges," Zeke said. "I had some health issues, so it was a good reason to come here."

Bridges Community Health

Centre serves Port Colborne, Wainfleet and Fort Erie and focuses on the needs of seniors, children and youth, newcomers to Canada, and families or individuals with low incomes.

With Sept. 30 to Oct. 6

being Community Health and Well-Being Week, community health-care organizations across the province, such as Bridges, are talking about the need to shift the conversation about health and health care,

and about what they do and how they operate.

A few of Bridges' clients in Port Colborne offered to talk about how they have been helped by the centre.

Zeke said once he came to

Bridges, through a community outreach worker with the centre about a year and a half ago, it was determined the he was malnourished.

see **HEALTH** | page 8



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HEALTH

Zeke not an uncommon story

FROM PAGE 7

Zeke, who is 63, and whose name for this story has been changed to protect his privacy, was put through a battery of tests, including blood work, a CT scan and X-rays. It was determined he had emphysema and lung cancer.

A lot of our clients are not seeing their rights met ... they are people that are falling through the cracks. Catching the vulnerable population is our goal."

Judy Cassan, community outreach worker

as well as arthritis, and spinal deterioration.

At Bridges, there are doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, dietitians, social workers, other kinds of clinical health providers, health promoters, community workers and others to help people who are clients, and those who take part in programs

... except the dietitian," Zeke said, adding he missed the appointment. "They're all really good people here."

Judy Cassan, community outreach worker, said fellow

community outreach worker Mary Anne Feagan did the original intake with Zeke for Bridges. Feagan now works in Bridges' Fort Erie office.

"He was on Ontario Works when he came ... he was denied ODSP," Cassan said.

She advocated on his behalf and was able to get him ODSP so that he could have money to eat and put gas in his car.

When his various illnesses were discovered, Cassan worked with a local lawyer to come up with a living will

and power of attorney for Zeke.

While his lung cancer and emphysema may put him on the extreme end when it comes to being ill, his situation is not uncommon in terms of other clients at Bridges.

"A lot of our clients are not seeing their rights met ... they are people that fall through the cracks. Catching the vulnerable population is our goal," said Cassan.

work, a CT scan and X-rays. It was determined he had emphysema and lung cancer,

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as well as arthritis, and spinal deterioration.

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"A lot of our clients are not seeing their rights met... they are people that fall through the cracks. Catching the vulnerable population is our goal," said Cassan.

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■ **HEALTH CARE:** Programs help diabetics control disease

Bridges is a one-stop health centre

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE—When Debbie Gillis and her husband Winston moved to Fort Erie five years ago, the couple didn't have a doctor.

"We went to the walk-in clinic," said Gillis.

Thumbing through the paper one day, she saw an ad for Bridges Community

Health Centre in Fort Erie, which said it was taking on new patients.

She made an appointment and spoke to the team at the centre at 1485 Garrison Rd.

Bridges serves Port Colborne, Wainfleet and Fort Erie, and focuses on the needs of seniors, children and youth, newcomers to Canada, and families or individuals with low incomes.

After Gillis and her husband became clients of the centre it started to offer more and more services over time.

Being a diabetic, there were programs Gillis could take part in to help her control the disease.

"There are programs for healthy cooking and eating ... shopping tours of grocery stores. There's so much to offer," she said.

Maureen Gall, a registered dietitian at Bridges working in both Fort Erie and Port Colborne, said the grocery store tour shows that there are healthy and affordable food choices. They also teach people how to read labels.

Gall said with Bridges' diabetes education program, people can be clients of the centre, be referred to the centre by their doctor or self-

refer themselves if they are unsure how to control their diabetes.

She said nurses and dietitians work one-on-one with diabetes clients at Bridges and there are group programs and hot topics on the disease as well.

Gillis said as programs and the centre expanded, she decided to take advantage of everything she could.

"There's everything you could possibly want ... it's a one-stop health centre. There's nurses, dietitians, RPNs (registered practical nurses), a social worker and psychologist — you don't need to go anywhere else."

"They really do genuinely care about you."

■ HEALTH CARE

Road to Empowerment accessible by Bridges

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — When Bill Lochhead injured himself in a fall, he found himself in various hospitals for a number of months.

After being released from Port Colborne hospital, he didn't have a doctor.

"My doctor retired while I was in the hospital," said Lochhead, a client at Bridges Community Health Centre in Port Colborne.

When he was released from hospital, he was given a list of medications, but one thing was missing from the list, cardiac medication. Lochhead asked about it at hospital and was told he needed to go his family doctor for that.

"I was over at Boggio's (Pharmacy) crying the blues when (owner) Larry (Boggio) got involved. He told me to calm down and go home, and that he'd call me later."

Within four hours, Lochhead had an appointment at Bridges, which also has offices in Port Erie.

He went to the appointment and saw a nurse practitioner first and then a doctor. He soon saw a kinesiologist and has gone on to see Bridges' social worker, health promoter and others.

"I get my money's worth out of Bridges. I really enjoy the people here ... they are very user-friendly and show they care and want to see me get better."

Lochhead said one of the programs he took up at Bridges was the Road to Empowerment. It provides advocacy skill building and leadership opportunities for people with the lived experience of poverty. Several of the program members participated in a recent Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy consultation in St. Catharines and provided firsthand experience of what needs to be done to address poverty.

He said the program has helped him. "I've used it many times." Lochhead said to apply for his pension, he needed to get a letter from Service Canada to show to Ontario Disability Support Program that he applied. Every time he went to Service Canada though, his printer was broken.

He planned to go to Welland MP Malcolm Allen and ask why.

"Before Road to Empowerment and Bridges I would have been too scared in my boots and would have never said anything to anyone."

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■ CRIME

Arrest made in Bridges' missing \$232,000

QMI Agency Niagara
FORT ERIE — An arrest has been made in the disappearance

of about \$232,000 from Bridges Community Health Centre. Niagara Regional Police are calling the case, first reported

in July, as an employee-related fraud case. Bridges Community Health Centre, a non-profit organiza-

tion that from offices in Fort Erie and Port Colborne provides health care, illness prevention,

health promotion and community development initiatives, discovered a number of questionable purchases,

invoices and cheques written from its bank account sometime last year, said police.

Officers with the central fraud unit began an investigation in 2012 and discovered Bridges lost \$232,000 over a four-year period.

Police were again called

following a forensic audit conducted on the health centre earlier this year.

Police arrested and charged a former Bridges employee with theft over \$5,000 and fraud over \$5,000, but said they will not be releasing the identity of the accused.



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YAZ / YASMIN: A LOOK AT THE RISKS VS. BENEFITS

There has been some recent concern from patients taking the oral contraceptive pills Yaz and Yasmin regarding the pills' safety. The concern stems from the release of media reports stating that these two brands of birth control pills (containing the ingredient, drospirenone) have been linked to the deaths of 23 Canadian women. The worry is that drospirenone – a type of progestin – carries a higher risk of developing a blood clot compared to other brands of birth control pills that do not contain this particular progestin. The purpose of this article is to discuss the reality of these risks and to alleviate any concerns patients may have.

Although many of the reported deaths resulted from blood clots, one cannot assume that the oral contraceptive is to blame. It is known that blood clots are a risk with birth control pills, but there are also many other reasons why someone could develop a clot. There has been no strong evidence to indicate that the contraceptive pills were the reason for these deaths. Health Canada has stated that the benefits of Yaz and Yasmin still outweigh the risks when used according to the labelling instructions.

There are warnings on the drug label about the risk of blood clots with these medications which may be 1.5 to 3-fold higher than with other contraceptive pills. To indicate this small difference, the FDA found that 6 women in 10 000 develop a blood clot while using other birth control pills in one year, and about 10 women in 10 000 using Yaz or Yasmin will develop a blood clot in one year. Yes, this is slightly higher, but to put it into perspective, up to 29 women in 10 000 will develop a blood clot during pregnancy. In other words the risk of blood clots is much higher if a woman becomes pregnant than if they were using any form of birth control. Yaz and Yasmin are still considered to be safe and effective, so if you are using either of these medications, and are not experiencing any adverse effects, it is reasonable to continue their use.

Many factors come into play when deciding which birth control pill to take or even whether to take one at all. Some things to consider are a woman's history of blood clots, heart attack or stroke; age, smoking status; and with Yaz and Yasmin, liver or kidney disease. It is important for women to discuss these details with their doctor in order to make the best decision.

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SUPPLIED PHOTO

Josh Davies is pictured with some of the whopping 1,112 kilograms of non-perishable food items he collected for Port Cares Reach Out Food Centre.

■ COMMUNITY

Teen pulls in big haul for Port Cares food bank

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — A visit to a Port Dover church during a camping trip sparked Josh Davies into action when he returned home to Wainfleet.

The 13-year-old William E. Brown student said a teen about his age was collecting money to help fight poverty.

"I thought to myself, 'Wow, that's pretty cool ... It must feel pretty good to do that,'" he said.

When he attended his home church — Forks Road East United — there was talk of the food centre in Port Colborne being almost completely out of food.

"To me that was God telling me that this was my chance to help and make a difference."

Before he did, though, he sought help from his pastor, Ieewa Sam.

"He came up to me following the service and expressed his desire to help by going from house to house in Wainfleet and collecting food," said Sam in an e-mail.

Sam gave Josh his blessing and "a letter, in case someone doubted his motives."

Armed with that letter, Josh started

driving his white and red lawn tractor, with matching trailer, around Wainfleet village. The trailer was built by Josh and his father, Gord, and is fairly deep.

"Filling my trailer was my goal," said Josh.

But he got more than he bargained for when one donor heard about what he was doing and gave 249 4.5-kg bags of potatoes for the food centre.

Even when he was out collecting, Josh saw the generosity of Wainfleet residents come out.

"I was collecting and left one house for the next when a lady came running down the street with another bag for me from the house I just left. Even people who said they didn't have any food still came up with a bag."

His school took up a community notice they heard what he was doing.

Sandy Pedersen, community developer at the Reach Out Centre, said it is inspiring to see someone of Josh's age to do what he did, and to bring in so much food.

"What he did will feed a lot of families," she said. "If every kid did that the food bank would never be out of food."

Pedersen said donations to the food centre at 61 Nickel St. can be made any time during the week between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or by calling 905-835-1914.

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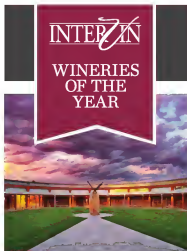
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STAR POWER

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\$25 From hockey player to winemaker, Tyler Harton had our panel loving his fresh, rich white. "Full, exciting, racy citrus and mouthwatering acidity," described April Kilpatrick. Fresh green notes on the nose with apple, pear, apricot and spice on the palate. Light- to medium-weight. Juicy and well-balanced.

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■ CRIME

Scam couple must repay victims

KARENA WALTER
QMI Agency Niagara

ST. CATHARINES-- A St. Catharines couple who bilked more than 60 customers across Ontario in excess of \$500,000 in a kitchen renovation scheme will have to pay them back -- \$500 a month at a time.

Shane and Sandra Byrne were sentenced to time served and house arrest last Wednesday in the massive fraud that saw homeowners from Port Colborne to Whitby to Waterloo pay for new kitchens they never received.

Their sentence included the condition they each start paying back \$500 a month within 30 days of obtaining real jobs.

"It is in the public interest the accused pay back to the victims as much as they can," said assistant Crown attorney Timothy Hill.

The married pair pleaded guilty Aug. 23 to fraud over \$5,000 each for scamming 61 customers through their company All Canadian Kitchen. They also each pleaded guilty to fraud over \$5,000 for reeling in five more victims through Designer Kitchen Pro -- a company they started while on bail for the All Canadian Kitchen charges.



Judge Peter Wilkie called the couple's conduct "truthless," adding the "anguish and grief" suffered by the victims went well beyond money handed over. He said customers' lives were left in

"disarray." "There can be no doubt the conduct of these offenders has exacted an emotional toll," he said during sentencing in the St. Catharines Ontario Court of

Justice.

He also said he was impressed by the work of the Niagara Regional Police fraud unit in the case.

Sandra Byrne, 49, and Shane, 39, were each sen-

tenced to two years less a day to be served in the community -- which included 18 months of strict house arrest--for the All Canadian Kitchen fraud. They received time served for the Designer

Kitchen Pro fraud, totalling 218 days for Sandra and 258 for Shane. The sentence will be followed by three years of probation.

see SCAM | page 18

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Each of the guilty blames the other

Kitchen nightmare



FROM PAGE 16

Lawyer John Bothwell, acting for the couple as a friend of the court, said by pleading guilty they saved the court and the complainants time and expense.

The court heard that had the couple gone forward with a trial -- with celebrity renovator Mike Holmes slated to be the Crown's star witness -- it was predicted to last a year.

The Byrnes have handed over \$109,000 from their bail money and other cash, but haven't accounted for the rest of the \$577,000

they are guilty of taking.

Hill said pre-sentence reports prepared for the couple found each blames the other for their current situation. There were notable contradictions in what they said and attempts to minimize their actions, he said.

"I feel very gloomy about the prospects of the two."

Both had criminal records, including Sandra's 1993 fraud over \$5,000 conviction in Toronto and a 2011 conviction on three counts of fraud under \$5,000 in St. Catharines. Shane had a 1996 conviction for uttering a death threat.

The pair advertised new kitchens in glossy flyers and on a website, which copied customer testimonials from a kitchen company in North Carolina.

Customers paid 25% when they signed a contract for a kitchen, 25% when their old kitchens were demolished and 25% when base cabinet shells arrived. They were supposed to pay 15% for a granite countertop and 15% upon completion.

The court heard only one kitchen was ever completed, and it was not up to standard.

Customers lost anywhere from \$500 to \$46,500. But the amount of cash doesn't represent the true loss.

Because old kitchens were torn out of the homes, homeowners were left eating take-out and washing dishes

in laundry rooms. They had to pay other companies to install new kitchens or go without. Not everyone saved up enough money for an unexpected second kitchen project, and spent months fretting about how they would pay for it.

Others were understandably wary of signing contracts with any kitchen company, causing hesitation, further delays and hardship.

"I just hope they learned from this," said Sue Burkimshor, whose 85-year-old mother Rose McFarland was a client of All Canadian Kitchens and died waiting for workers to show up and finish the job.

Dori Browning of Thorold, who with husband Bob lost the money after hiring All Canadian Kitchens to do extensive renovations to their home, said she was pleased the judge spoke about the victims.

"He recognized how hard it is for people," she said. "I'm very pleased and I'm glad it's behind us."

Linda Capostagno of Grimsby, who lost more than \$16,000 with her husband, said the sentence was the best for everyone involved.

"The decision of the court was a fair decision. It works out best for the people involved," she said.

"For them to go to jail wouldn't have done us any good."



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Proposed Increase in Building Permit Fees

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne will hold a public meeting on the 28th day of October, 2013, at 6:30 P.M., in the Council chambers at City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, in order to consider a proposed Schedule of Permit Fees structure under Section 7 of the Building Code Act.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT – The City of Port Colborne is proposing to adopt a new schedule of permit fees pursuant to its new Building By-law following a review of the building permit fees under Section 7(b) of the Building Code Act. The effect will be to increase some of the existing permit fees and introduce new fees. Information will be provided at the meeting on the estimated costs of enforcing and administering the Building Code Act, the rationale for changing and imposing fees and the amount of the proposed fee(s).

ANY PERSON may submit written comments prior to the meeting or attend the public meeting and make written or verbal representation at the time of the meeting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is contained in Council Report No. 2013-56, "Comprehensive Building By-law & Permit Fee Structure" received for information at the Council meeting of September 23, 2013 and is available on the City's website at www.portcolborne.ca or during regular office hours from the Municipal Clerk's Department at the municipal offices.

Ashley Grigg,
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■ MOTORSPORTS

Mr. Motorcycle born to ride

SARAH FERGUSON
Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — There's nothing Wesley Pierce loves more than to be on his motorcycle riding down an open road.

He is a longtime ambassador for motorcycling, so it came as a great honour to Pierce when he learned the Canadian Motorcycle Hall of Fame is inducting him as the third member of the Class of 2013. His accomplishments in the world of racing will be celebrated Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Delta Meadowvale Hotel and Conference Centre in Mississauga.

In his competitive days, the Port Colborne native, now 71, was an off-road rider who competed in scrambles, hill climbs, trials and enduros.

He also was a Canadian junior enduro champion.

Among his list of accomplishments, Pierce, with fellow racer Stan Bradbury, created the Massasauga Enduro, a difficult event that gained national championship status.

Pierce also revived speedway racing

in Welland. For a decade, Pierce leased the Welland County Motorcycle Club track and promoted racing at Niagara Motorcycle Racing in Welland.

He has been a member of the club since 1959 and, over the years, has filled a number of positions, including president, vice-president, road captain and, most recently, public relations manager.

Question: What was your first motorcycle?

Answers: It was a British bike. It was a 125 cc James and I bought it for \$35.

Q: How old were you?

A: I was 15 at the time and I wasn't allowed to own a bike because you had to be 16. It was a beautiful bike, but I crashed it through a garage. I was starting the bike and I had to jump on to kick-start the bike. I spun around and drove through drywall.

Q: What was one of your favourite motorcycles?

see **MOTORCYCLE** | page 20



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo

Wesley Pierce is being inducted into the Motorcycle Hall of Fame.

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Success ahead! Map your future growth



Join the Port Colborne- Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce, BDC (Business Development Bank of Canada) and the City of Port Colborne as we celebrate the outstanding contribution of Port Colborne Wainfleet small and medium-sized businesses.

Location:

The Roselawn Centre
296 Fielden Avenue, Port Colborne
On: Wednesday, October 23, 2013
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

To register for this event:

Email: office@pcwchamber.com
Telephone: 905-834-9765



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■ MOTORCYCLE

Best known for work with cycling club

FROM PAGE 19

As In 1965 I had a new Triumph Jack Five off-road model. It was the first one in Canada and I had it

for about two weeks when I went around a creek and took a corner too hard and ended up in the water in Lake Erie. I was sick just sitting there in cold Lake Erie with a brand

new bike.

Q: What happened to your bike after that?

A: I dragged it out. Everything was

water-proof so I was able to fix it. But it just makes you sick.

Q: What was one of your accomplishments?

A: I created the Massasauga Enduro, and it was quite a challenging race. I did everything for it and it became a big event. It was 150 miles long and it had a big turnout. It became quite serious.

Q: What do you think you are most well known for?

A: In 1971, my biggest claim to fame was the Welland County Motorcycle Club. I made a deal I would run races. I leased the property from the club and I built grandstands, washrooms and I did that for 10 years. The club wisely didn't renew my lease.

Q: Why did you run the Welland track for a decade?

A: I didn't want to see it die.

Q: Do you still ride your motorcycle?

A: Every chance I get.

Q: You work for Welland Honda and you are announcer at the Welland Motorcycle Club. Do you plan on retiring any time soon?

A: I'm very slowly getting to that point. I'm 72 now and I am starting to appreciate the merits of my wife. She is very proud of me.

Q: How does it feel to be recognized by the Canadian Motorcycle Hall of Fame?

A: My name had been put in a few years ago and I was quite honoured then. It's a treat to see the heroes of the motorcycle world. It will be interesting as the highlight of this year is the Gorduray Enduro, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. I am very fond of it."

Q: What's the most adventurous thing you have ever done?

A: I had a Jawa scooter that I rode everywhere. I rode it to Montreal and New York City and back with no money.

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■ MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Nigara Region CAO's office is already over budget

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI
QMI Agency Niagara

THOROLD — Filling vacancies in Niagara Region's top bureaucrat's office might be less costly than early budget figures suggest.

Regional staff estimate the chief administrative officer's budget will jump 3.8% next year — higher than the 2.7% target regional council handed departments to aim for — despite the retirement of former CAO Mike Trojan and the departure of his deputy, former administration director Mike Weir.

The two were among four

employees in the office, and Regional Chair Gary Burroughs said earlier this year incoming CAO Harry Schlange will likely earn less than Trojan.

But the proposed budget increase isn't likely to stand, said acting administration director Betty Matthews-Malone.

"I've projected the budget based on both positions being filled next year," she said, adding she estimated out both jobs as being held by someone at the region's highest possible tier of pay.

She said it's likely the

office's budget will come down as Schlange arrives and

a new permanent administration director is chosen.

"I'd like Harry to take a look at it and see if he's in agree-

ment with what I'm projecting for him," she said.



Notice PORT COLBORNE TRANSIT USERS

~~ROUTE CHANG~~

The West Community Route has changed to accommodate the providing of transit service and stop at the corner of Elm Street and Charlotte Street; that the new route will turn left off Ash Street and travel north on Elm Street to the stop sign at Elm and Charlotte and turn right on to Charlotte Street to City Hall.

~~EXTENDED HOURS~~

Effective November 11th, 2013, a pilot project has been approved, extending the daily Community Bus Service by one hour earlier in the morning, to commence at 7:00a.m. and one hour later in the evening ending at 8:00 p.m. The project will be in place for 6 months to be reviewed during 2014 budget deliberations as to the continuation of the extended hours of service.

~~TRANSIT FARE~~

Port Colborne Transit Fare

Category	Fares
<u>Cash Fares</u>	
Adult/Post Secondary Student	\$2.75
Cash-Senior	\$2.75
Cash -Student	\$2.75
Children (12 and under)	\$1.50
<u>Passes</u>	
22 Ride Adult	N/A
22 Ride Student	N/A
22 Ride Senior	N/A
10 Ride Adult	\$22.00
10 Ride Student	\$19.00
10 Ride Senior	\$16.50
<u>Monthly Passes</u>	
Adult	\$69.00
Student	\$59.00
Senior	\$52.00
<u>Link Services Fares</u>	
Port Colborne	\$3.50
Link Service 10 ride pass	\$32.00

NOTE: 22 Ride passes will be honoured until used

For further details of full routes, extended hours and bus route schedules, go to www.portcolborne.ca

Congratulations PRIVATE DALCOURT



"Edward, it looks like you are really leaving this time... finally got your long awaited call to join the **Canadian Forces**."



Good Luck and God Bless. We are all going to miss you, but are very happy for you."

Love Dad, Mom and Kristie

■ **EDUCATION:** The Pipeline Project launched at Steel Street by DeGroot School of Medicine

Young students enticed by health-care professions



McMaster medical student Balal Lone engages Steele Street School student Riley Simpson in a fun biology lesson, Wednesday.

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — It was kind of a test for the students from the Niagara campus of McMaster University's DeGroot School of Medicine.

Although they weren't being graded on it, the future physicians needed to know what they were talking about when they shared their knowledge about kidneys with students from Steele Street School, last Wednesday.

"They have to understand the concept well enough at the scientific level that they can explain it to grades 5 and 6 students," said their professor, Dr. Amanda Bell. "It's really important."

Bell was at the elemen-

tary school with second-year medical students Balal Lone and Natalie Lidster to launch an initiative called the Pipeline Project, designed to introduce children to medical science at an early age in the hope that those students might one day choose to become physicians, too.

"It exposes students at an earlier age to post-secondary opportunities that they have in Niagara," said Bell, also the medical school's pre-clerkship co-ordinator. "They don't have to leave home to go to medical school and maybe consider a career in health sciences."

In addition to promoting the local medical school, Bell said the program raises awareness about health issues.

The medical students discussed kidneys and kidney transplantations during their visit to Port Colborne. On Wednesday they will talk about nutrition when they visited DSNB Academy in St. Catharines. Bell said they also plan to visit students at two Niagara secondary schools in the weeks to come.

At the end of the year, the elementary and high school students will be invited to the DeGroot School of Medicine campus in St. Catharines so they can see the facilities that are available there.

Bell also works as a family doctor in Port Colborne and said she knew many of the students in the classroom.

"For me, it really is the full circle of small-town medicine," she said.

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THURSDAY OCTOBER 10

FIRE TRUCK VISIT
Join local firefighters for a talk on fire safety at Pelham Public Library, complete with a story and a fire truck. Everyone welcome at 1 p.m. Free, but pre-registration required.

PASTA NIGHT AT CASA DANTE
Takeout dinners are available for \$8 from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sauce, meatballs, minestrone soup, and pasta fagioli are also available for takeout. *Note:* Eat in has been cancelled.

NIAGARA PROSTATE CANCER
support group meets at 7 p.m. at the Canadian Cancer Society office, 45 Hannover Dr., St. Catharines. Cancer information and informal discussions. Men and

women welcome. For more information call 905-934-1685.

PHILOSOPHER'S CAFÉ
at Wainfleet Township Public Library at 6:30 p.m. This month's topic of discussion is: Are Ethics and Morals Still Important? All welcome.

**FRIDAY
OCTOBER 11**
GET COOKING
with Fire Safety. Bring the family to Pelham Public Library for this fun and informative session with games and activities on the theme of kitchen safety. Pelham Fire Department's extrication team will demonstrate the Jaws of Life and other rescue tools. Time 5 p.m.; cost: free.

P.A. DAY CRAFTS WITH STACEY
at Port Colborne Public Library, 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Paint a whimsical owl plaque. For ages five to 12. Cost is \$4 Pre-register at the library.

RED CROSS BABYSITTER
course at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., for youths aged 11 to 15. Participants must bring a lunch and a doll or teddy bear to use as a baby during the practice session. Cost: \$50 per student. Call 905-899-1277 to pre-register by Monday, Oct. 7, as space is limited and a minimum number of registrants is required to run the course.

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 12**
PAINTING WITH MARGARET
at Port Colborne Public Library. Paint a wooden pumpkin for Halloween. For ages six to 12. Cost is \$4. Pre-register at the library.

**TUESDAY
OCTOBER 15**
SEARCHING A FAMILY TREE
What records are available for searching in Pelham and surrounding areas? Steve Fulton from the Niagara chapter of the Ontario Genealogical Society will discuss local census records, funeral

homes, land registry, local archives and libraries when he visits Pelham Public Library at 6:30 p.m. Cost \$3. Please register ahead.

PORT COLBORNE HISTORICAL
Society meets 7 p.m. at Portia Village Retirement Home. Master gardener Vivian Shoalts will speak on historical gardens. All welcome. For more information call 905-834-4143.

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 17**
LET'S TALK ABOUT HOR-MONES
with Jackie Harvey. Hormone stages in a woman's life is the topic at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 29 Baid St. Wainfleet, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., with Q&A afterwards. Tickets are \$20. Call Jane at 289-214-8467 to reserve. Bring three friends and you're free.

LOOKING FOR A FREE
and entertaining night out? The Rose City Toastmasters

Club needs an audience for its annual humorist speech and table topics contests, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Welland Arena's Lower Community Room. For more information, phone 289-696-3167, e-mail: contact-2877@toastmastersclubs.org or visit <http://2877.toastmastersclubs.org>.

FAMILY WILL NIGHT
at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 6 to 7:30. All ages are welcome to drop in to play Nintendo Wii.

**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 16**
SPEAK UP!
Conversations with Family: Independence and Personal Care. Topics like health care, living arrangements and finances are important. Talking about these things can be difficult. Learn about the steps you can take to have these conversations, assure that wants and needs are known and give your loved ones clear direction. Free 6 p.m. session at Pelham Public

Library. Register ahead.

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 19**
OCTOBERFEST DINNER
First Lutheran Church, 688 Elm St., Port Colborne, 6 p.m. Tickets \$14 for adults, \$5 children aged four to 10. Call 905-834-0590 or 905-835-8111 for tickets.

COUNTRY LUNCHEON
and fall fair at St. John's Stevensville United Church, 14789 Sodom Rd., Snyder, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**MONDAY
OCTOBER 21**
FORGIVENESS WORKSHOP
with Tracy Zimmerman at Port Colborne Public Library. A workshop on how and why to forgive. Find out how forgiveness is an important component in helping to prevent and cope with bullying and how parents can teach their children how to heal through forgiveness. Cost \$5. Pre-register at the library.

MORE LISTINGS PAGE 24

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**TUESDAY
OCTOBER 22
MAGICAL HALLOWEEN
PARTY**
at Pelham Public Library.
Float on in with your best

costume, and enjoy a magic show by our local magicians. All ages. Craft included. Starts at 6:30 p.m. Cost \$4. Registration required.

FOOD FOR FINES DAY
at Wainfleet Township Public Library. Bring in non-perishable food items to have overdue fines waived. Some

conditions apply: One food item equals \$2 in overdue fines waived. A maximum of \$10 in overdue fines can be waived. Does not apply to item replacement costs. Food items will be donated to a local food bank.

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 24
HALLOWEEN**

a teen and adult Halloween event at Pelham Public Library. See how a pro creates his Halloween look. Wayne Mallows set up Scream Works, his own haunted house attraction, created characters and trained "spooks" for other attractions, including many for Canada's Wonderland, is

the host of The Ghost Walks of St. Catharines and has been involved with special effects make-up for theatre and film. Time 7 p.m.; cost \$5. Please register ahead. Subject matter not suitable for all audiences.

MAYOR'S STORY TIME
with April Jeffs hosted by Wainfleet Township Public

Library in the Wainfleet Firefighters' Memorial Community Hall at 10 a.m. A special event for our local schools. Individuals with children aged two to five may also attend. Call the library at 905-899-1277 for more information.

MORE LISTINGS PAGE 26

SPOTLIGHT on service



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Prayer and Ministry from God's Word
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Wids Club (ages 5 to 15)
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CLASSIC BOOK CLUB

at Wainfleet Township Public Library 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. This month's selection is *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde. To obtain a copy of the book, please register as a book club member.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 25

GARDENING PRESENTATION
at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 2 p.m. Master gardener Vivian Shoalts presents tips and techniques used in putting your garden to sleep for the winter. Call 905-899-1277 to pre-register your attendance by Monday, Oct. 21.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 26

HALLOWEEN SLEEPOVER
at Welland Historical Museum for kids aged seven to 12, beginning at 6:30pm. Call the museum to register — space is limited: 905-732-2215.

MONDAY OCTOBER 28

DROP-IN FLU CLINIC
at Pelham Public Library by Niagara Region Public Health Department. Open to the public 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

BOO & BOWL

at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Make a paper roll ghost and we'll try to knock 'em down with a pumpkin. Ages five and up. Call 905-899-1277 to pre-register by Wednesday, Oct. 23.

ADULT BOOK CLUB

at Wainfleet Township Public Library at 6:30 p.m. This month's selection is *The Swallows of Kabul* by Yasmina Khadra. To obtain a copy of the book, please register as a book club member.

PELHAM HORTICULTURAL

Society meeting 7:30 p.m. at Floral Dimensions Flower Farm, 906 Hwy. 20 W., Fenwick, a field trip to a local grower to see what's new. Look for the big chair. Bring a lawn or folding chair.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 29

BOOK READING
Kelley Armstrong, with Jamie Gowan, is featured at Pelham Public Library as part of the Heart of Niagara Reading Series. Bestselling author Armstrong continues to spin tales of ghosts and demons and werewolves. *The Rising*, the last volume in *Darkest Powers & Darkness Rising* and *Omens*, book one of *Cainsville* have been released in 2013. Time 7:30 p.m.; cost \$10.

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